BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5813 MAY 12, 1978
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

THIS WEEK NO. 19

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS ----------.

NARR:

INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIONS ASSUMED EVEN GREATER PROPORTIONS THIS WEEK WITH THE MURDER OF FORMER ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ALDO MORO BY HIS RED BRIGADES KIDNAPPERS IN ROME. FIFTY-FOUR DAYS AFTER HIS ABDUCTION, MISTER MORO'S BODY WAS FOUND IN A STOLEN CAR NOT FAR FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF HIS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

THE MORO FAMILY, ANGERED OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO BARGAIN WITH THE RED BRIGADES FOR ALDO MORO'S LIFE, TOOK HIS BODY TO A PRIVATE FUNERAL SERVICE IN A VILLAGE CHURCH. THE FAMILY ALSO ASKED THE ITALIAN STATE AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO RESPECT ALDO MORO'S WISHES FOR NO NATIONAL MOURNING AND NO STATE FUNERAL. STILL MILLIONS OF ITALIANS WERE MOURNING THE DEATH OF THEIR LONGTIME LEADER, AS REPORTED BY VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID LENT FROM ROME:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- LENT

"TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ITALIAN WORKERS STOOD UNDER A SEA OF BLACK UMBRELLAS IN ROME WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TO HEAR LABOR LEADERS CONDEMN THE MURDER OF ALDO MORO AND PLEDGE SUPPORT TO THE DEMOCRATIC STATE. SEVEN MILLION WORKERS ALL OVER ITALY STAGED TWO-HOUR STRIKES TO THE SAME END. THE TWO CHAMBERS OF ITALY'S PARLIAMENT HELD SPECIAL SESSIONS COMMEMORATING THE MURDERED FORMER PRIME MINISTER. BOUQUETS OF ROSES RESTED UPON HIS EMPTY SEAT IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. POPE PAUL SPOKE OUT PERSONALLY TO DENOUNCE THE KILLING OF HIS FRIEND OF MANY YEARS. THE POPE WAS ADDRESSING AN AUDIENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SAINT PETER'S

BASILICA. 'THIS CRIME', THE PONTIFF SAID, 'HAS SHOCKED ALL HONEST PEOPLE. IT IS LIKE A STRAIN OF BLOOD THAT DISHONORS OUR COUNTRY.' 'EVERYONE', HE SAID, 'IS DISCUSSING IT AND EVERYONE IS FILLED WITH INDIGNATION.'

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK, ITALY'S TERRORISTS WERE STRIKING AGAIN. TWO BUSINESSMEN, WERE WOUNDED, INCLUDING THE HEAD OF THE MILAN BRANCH OF AN AMERICAN BANK. THE RENEWED VIOLENCE COMPOUNDED THE MOOD OF CRISIS IN ROME FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF THE INTERIOR MINISTER. IN RESIGNING, FRANCESCO COSSIGA TOOK FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO BARGAIN WITH THE KIDNAPPERS OF ALDO MORO. THE MINISTER ALSO TOOK THE BLAME FOR THE FAILURE OF POLICE UNDER HIS CONTROL TO RESCUE THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER.

(OPT) SOME ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS CALLED THE RESIGNATION TIMELY, AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY SAID IT WAS AN ACT OF HONESTY AND RESPONSIBILITY. POLICE EFFORTS TO TRACK DOWN THE KIDNAPPERS OF ALDO MORO CONTINUE WITH NO NOTABLE SUCCESS, AND THE LATEST TERRORIST ATTACKS ONLY SERVED TO EMPHASIZE THE POLICE'S CONTINUED HELPLESSNESS. (END OPT)

MEANWHILE, IN THE REST OF EUROPE MISTER MORO'S DEATH PRODUCED VARIOUS REACTIONS. FOR ONE THING, MOST WEST EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES ARE FEARFUL THAT PUBLIC OPINION WILL MOVE SHARPLY TO THE RIGHT. AND MOST GOVERNMENTS, ASIDE FROM CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION, ARE WARNING THAT THE RED BRIGADES ACTION IS, IN THE WORDS OF BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER LEO TINDEMANS, "AN INSIDIOUS ATTACK ON DEMOCRACY".

COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, FEARFUL OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATION OF THE RED BRIGADES WITH COMMUNISM, ECHOED THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY, TASS, STATEMENT THAT ITALIAN TERRORISM, AS WELL AS TERRORISM IN GENERAL, IS CRIMINAL AND REACTIONARY.

IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE U.S. SENATE FAILED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION WHICH COULD HAVE BLOCKED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONTROVERSIAL AIRCRAFT SALE TO ISRAEL, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. THE RESOLUTION CALLED FOR REJECTION OF ALL PROPOSED SALES TO THE THREE NATIONS. LATER, THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A MOTION SENDING THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO THE FULL SENATE WITHOUT ANY RECOMMENDATION.

IN EFFECT, THIS WILL NOW FORCE THE SENATE TO VOTE ON THE ENTIRE PACKAGE RATHER THAN ON THE INDIVIDUAL SALES TO EGYPT, ISRAEL AND SAUDI ARABIA. THE TIE VOTE IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WAS A DOUBLE VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO HAD WANTED THE ARMS SALES TO BE CONSIDERED AS A PACKAGE FROM THE TIME IT WAS FIRST SENT TO CONGRESS. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER EXPRESSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S FEELINGS:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CHRISTOPHER

"WE'RE PLEASED THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE DID NOT VOTE OUT A RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL. WE KNOW IT WAS A DIFFICULT VOTE FOR A NUMBER OF SENATORS ON THE COMMITTEE. WE LOOK FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE MATTER BEING CONSIDERED ON THE SENATE FLOOR."

NARR:

HOWEVER, SENATOR FRANK CHURCH, A LEADING MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, VIEWED THE RESULTS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- CHURCH

"I THINK THAT THE ACTION THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN GIVES THOSE SENATORS WHO FEEL THIS IS THE WRONG TIME TO INJECT FIVE THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF PLANES INTO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO PREVAIL."

NARR:

THE PROPOSAL NOW GOES TO THE FULL SENATE WHERE IT STILL FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. (OPT) EARLIER IN THE WEEK, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MADE A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO HEAD OFF A DEFEAT IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE VOTE. THE CONCESSIONS OFFERED BY THE WHITE HOUSE INCLUDE A PROMISE TO MAKE 20 ADDITIONAL FIGHTER PLANES AVAILABLE TO ISRAEL IN FIVE YEARS. SIMILARLY, IN AN EFFOR TO MEET CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS THAT ADVANCED AIRCRAFT PLANNED FOR SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE A THREAT TO ISRAEL, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFERED WRITTEN ASSURANCES THAT THE PLANES WOULD ONLY BE USED FOR DEFENSIVE PRUPOSES. (END OPT)

THIS WEEK, THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ALSO VOTED NOT TO LIFT THE PARTIAL ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. THE EMBARGO -- IMPOSED BY CONGRESS IN 1975 -- NOW APPLIES ONLY TO OUTRIGHT GRANTS OF U.S. ARMS TO TURKEY. IT DOES NOT AFFECT CREDITS USED BY TURKEY TO PURCHASE AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

(OPT) IN ARGUING FOR AN END TO THE EMBARGO SENATOR FRANK CHURCH SAID TURKEY WILL NOT MAKE THE NECESSARY MOVES TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE AS LONG AS THE ARMS EMBARGO REMAINS IN EFFECT. HE SAID THE EMBARGO SO FAR HAS FAILED TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS. BUT SUPPORTERS OF THE EMBARGO RECALLED THAT IT WAS IMPOSED AFTER TURKEY USED AMERICAN ARMS IN ITS INVASION OF CYPRUS. THEY ARGUED THAT TURKEY HAS NOT MADE ENOUGH MOVES TOWARDS PEACE TO WARRANT A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. (END OPT)

IN OTHER ARMS RELATED DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEK, THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AGREED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO LIMIT ARMS TRANSFERS TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO HOLD REGULAR TALKS ON THE MATTER. VOA CORRESPONDENT MARK WILLEN HAS THE DETAILS:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- WILLEN

THE U.S. SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE TALKS ARE NOT AIMED AT ELIMINATING ALL ARMS TRANSFERS, BUT ONLY AT REDUCING THEM -- ESPECIALLY WHEN ADVANCED WEAPONS ARE INVOLVED. HE SAID OF PARTICULAR CONCERN ARE INSTANCES WHERE A SUPPLY OF ARMS MIGHT AGGRAVATE LOCAL CONFLICTS, WHERE IT MIGHT INTENSIFY ARMS COMPETITION, WHERE IT MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, OR WHERE IT MIGHT IMPOSE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC BURDENS ON LESSS DEVELOPED NATIONS. HE NOTED THAT SUCH A POLICY HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE IN LATIN AMERICA, WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAS WORKED TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS."

NARR:

IN DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THIS WEEK, THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION -- SWAPO -- CANCELLED ALL TALKS WITH THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE WESTERN PLAN FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. SWAPO SAID THAT IN THE FACE OF THE "GRAVE SITUATION" CREATED BY SOUTH AFRICA'S RAID INTO ANGOLA LAST WEEK, IT HAD DECIDED TO RECALL ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM.

THE WESTERN PLAN CALLS FOR THE PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM NAMIBIA, CREATION OF A U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN THE TERRITORY, AND FREE ELECTIONS UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION.

STILL, WESTERN DIPLOMATS REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT THE CURRENT DEADLOCK IS ONLY A TEMPORARY POSTPONMENT AND THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH SWAPO WILL RESUME SOMETIME SOON. IN ANY CASE, THEY SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR TWELVE-MONTH-OLD INITIATIVE AIMED AT WORKING OUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA.

(OPT) IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT HOMELAND OF THE TRANSKEI THIS WEEK BROKE ITS NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH PRETORIA.

ITS PRIME MINISTER, CHIEF MANTANZIMA, SAID FROM NOW ON NO SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT WILL BE ALLOWED OVER-FLIGHT PRIVILEGES AND NO NAVAL VESSELS WILL BE PERMITTED IN TRANSKEI'S TERRITORIAL WATERS EVEN IN CASES OF EMERGENCY. THE ACTION WAS TAKEN AFTER SOUTH AFRICA CANCELLED A TRAINING COURSE FOR TRANSKEIAN SOLDIERS AT A SOUTH AFRICAN INFANTRY SCHOOL.

LAST MONTH, THE TRANSKEI BROKE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO CONSIDER TRANSKEI'S CLAIM TO A NEIGHBORING TERRITORY. THE TRANSKEI BECAME INDEPENDENT LAST YEAR BUT SO FAR HAS ONLY BEEN RECOGNIZED BY SOUTH AFRICA. IT HAS BEEN SCORNED BY THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS AN ILLEGAL CREATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S APARTHEID POLICIES. (END OPT)

IN WASHINGTON, INFLATION CONTINUES TO BE THE NUMBER ONE CONCERN. THIS WEEK, PRESIDENT CARTER MET WITH U.S. LABOR LEADERS TO URGE THEIR COOPERATION IN MODERATING WAGE DEMANDS. AFTER THE MEETING, LABOR SECRETARY RAY MARSHALL SAID THE LABOR LEADERS WERE ASKED TO WORK WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IN TRYING TO CHECK THE RATE OF INFLATION.

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- MARSHALL

"WHAT IT MEANS IS THAT YOU WORK IN A VARIETY OF WAYS TO TRY TO CHECK INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. I EMPHASIZED TO THEM, AS THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT DID, THAT THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE THERE. PART OF IT IS TO MODERATE WAGE DEMANDS IN THE LIGHT OF MODERATION IN PRICE CHANGES THAT TAKE PLACE. IT HAS TO BE A COOPERATIVE UNDERTAKING."

NARR:

LATER, HOWEVER, AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY TURNED DOWN PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORMULA FOR WAGE RESTRAINTS, SAYING THAT THE PLAN WILL ONLY WORK AFTER BUSINESS KEEPS PRICES DOWN. THE LABOR LEADER PRAISED THE GOALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANTI-INFLATION

POLICY BUT REJECTED ONE OF ITS KEY PROVISIONS. MISTER CARTER AND HIS ECONOMIC ADVISERS WANT LABOR TO ACCEPT A FORMULA FOR KEEPING WAGE INCREASES BELOW THOSE NEGOTIATED IN THE PREVIOUS CONTRACT PERIOD. AND ALTHOUGH THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD APPLY THE SAME FORMULA TO BUSINESS, GEORGE MEANY SAID IT WOULD NOT WORK UNTIL LOWER PRICES TAKE EFFECT.

VICE-PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE CONCLUDED HIS FIVE-NATION FAR EAST TOUR THIS WEEK. HE SAID THAT ECONOMIC RATHER THAN MILITARY ISSUES ARE THE PRIMARY CONCERN NOW IN THE COUNTRIES HE VISITED -- THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND. MISTER MONDALE ALSO SAID HE BELIEVES THE UNITED STATES CAN COMBINE ITS TRADITIONAL CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY WITH AN IMAGINATIVE RESPONSE TO NEW CONCERNS -- INCLUDING ASSURING ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES, LOWERING TRADE BARRIERS, FINDING NEW ENERGY SOURCES, SUPPORTING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. VOA CORRESPONDENT ROBERT LODGE, WHO TRAVELLED WITH THE VICE-PRESIDENT, HAS THIS REPORT:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- LODGE

"MISTER MONDALE ASSERTS THAT ALL THESE GOALS REQUIRE THAT AMERICA REMAIN STRONG IN THE PACIFIC. HE SAID ACCESS TO BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES ENHANCES U.S. STRATEGIC CLEXIBILITY AND ANZUS TIES TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC. AND IN INDONESIA AND THAILAND, HE STRESSED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENT TO REMAIN A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT UNDER NEW AMERICAN RESTRAINTS ON ARMS TRANSFERS."

NARR:

(OPT) VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE ALSO PROMISED STRONGER AMERICAN TIES WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN), AND HE SAID THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED BY ASEAN LEADERS. IN HIS VIEW, THE PACIFIC BASIN HAS LAUNCHED AN UNPRECEDENTED AND

EXCITING ERA OF CHANGE AND GROWTH. AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. ROLE IS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC COUNTRIES. (END OPT)

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS _____. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT -- WHEN THE VOCE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

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JS/RTD/PY